

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-24 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 13, 19, and 23 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim, but otherwise allowable. Applicant appreciates the examiner's identification of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-12, 14-18, 20-22, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,366,913 to Fitler Jr. et al., hereinafter "Fitler," in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,208,986 to Schneck et al., hereinafter "Schneck."

Claims 1, 5, 9, and 15 have been amended to expedite prosecution. No new matter has been added. Claims 13, 19, and 21-24 have been canceled to expedite prosecution. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-12, 14-18, and 20 in view of the following.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 9, and 15 have been amended to include the subject matter indicated by the examiner to be allowable (claims 23, 13, and 19, respectively). Claim 5 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 24. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 24 is similar to claim 23 and thus claim 5 (now including the subject matter of claim 24), as amended, should be allowable in a similar manner as claim 1 (now including the subject matter of claim 23).

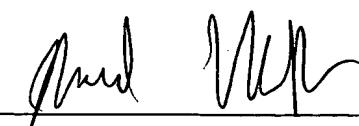
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Raymond N. Scott Jr. at (215) 564-8951, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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